

## From the Editors

Some of Australia's iconic natural areas and species are under threat, from a variety of causes. Agreement has been given recently by the Queensland government to the dumping of dredging spoil from Abbott Point, within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; the Victorian high country is constantly in danger from the re-introduction of cattle grazing; and a program of shark culling has begun in Western Australia.

Threats to the natural world of this magnitude are not uncommon, but they occur also at a smaller scale, for example in local parks and nature reserves, and are equally regrettable. One thing that is needed at the local level is detailed field work, to provide a base level of knowledge of the diversity of the area.

It is pleasing then, to report here on a project of fauna monitoring in three urban parks in the Greater Melbourne area. Very few studies have been completed on species present in local parks so this program is both relevant and timely. Another noteworthy feature of this work is that it is collaborative, involving the FNCV's Fauna Survey Group, local environment groups and two Victorian Government departments—Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

*The Victorian Naturalist*  
is published six times per year by the

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(as of January 2014)

Membership category		Institutional	
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